

# Colby Backs Bush for CIA Post

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WASHINGTON — Outgoing CIA Director William E. Colby described the nominee for director, George Bush, as "a good man" yesterday, and predicted that Bush would not let domestic politics affect his intelligence reports.

In his first meeting with reporters since his sudden ouster, Colby played the part of a good soldier. He declined to complain about the "Sunday Massacre" that cost him and former Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger their jobs.

Colby did acknowledge that he had disagreed with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. He said that President Ford's proposal to make him ambassador to NATO was "not a very good idea."

Colby turned down the NATO job when Ford offered it to him a week ago Sunday, the day he was fired, but later agreed to a Ford request to stay on as head of the CIA until a new director can be confirmed by the Senate.

Some leading senators have complained that Bush's past role as chairman of the Republican National Committee and his possible vice-presidential candidacy should disqualify him from the sensitive CIA leadership.

Colby declined to comment directly on the political issue, saying it was up to the President and Congress to

decide. He added that "I don't think it will have much effect" on the nation's intelligence capability.

He warned, however, that Bush would have to prove himself to professional intelligence officers, whose morale reportedly has been shaken by the prospect of a politician as their director.

"They will judge him by the way he performs," Colby said. "Their morale will be affected by what happens — not by a single factor in his background."

Colby said it was important in a democracy for the intelligence director to be subject to the President, but that this intelligence assessments should be independent and not tailored to fit political considerations at the White House.

He said that was how he made his reports to Presidents Richard M. Nixon and Ford, and added, "I think George Bush will do the same."

Colby said Ford gave him no reason for his dismissal, in a 15-minute meeting on Nov. 2 except that he was "rearranging" the government's national security structure.

He thought briefly about the NATO job but turned it down, he said, because "it was not a very good idea for one with my professional background." He explained that he might be greeted in Europe by suspicion, protest and even demonstration.

Asked about reports that he was fired partly because he was to open with Congress, Colby admitted that there were "some disagreements" about his strategy for handling the various investigations of the CIA.

"Obviously from time to time Henry (Kissinger) and I have disagreed," he said. The disputes involved both intelligence matters and what Colby called his "forward posture" toward congressional investigating committees.

However, Colby denied that those arguments—one of which had to be settled by Ford personally—were "a major factor" in his dismissal, as the President said they were in Schlesinger's case.

Colby said the multiple investigations and publicity have harmed the CIA to some extent. He also complained about news leaks from the Congressional committees.